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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 3494**
Shinro OYAMA : Attorney Docket No. 2005_2028A
Serial No. 10/562,447 : Group Art Unit 2852
Filed December 27, 2005 :
FLUORINE RESIN TUBULAR ARTICLE, :
FIXING ROLL, FIXING BELT AND
IMAGE FIXING APPARATUS

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☒ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

Serial No. 10/500,224

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☒ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☒ Comments:

The US '122 reference cited on the attached PTO-1449 form corresponds to the copending application cited in item 3 above. The attached PTO-1449 form also cites the Office Action of October 1, 2007 issued in connection with the copending application.

The attached PTO-1449 form also cites the US '530 and US '963 references cited in the Office Action issued in the copending application.

A Notice of Reasons for Refusal was issued May 2, 2006 in connection with the Japanese priority application on which the present U.S. application is based. A copy of the Notice of Reasons for Refusal, and an English translation thereof, are submitted herewith, along with copies of the WO '831, JP '634 and JP '163 references cited therein, as well as EP '259 corresponding to WO '831. The other references cited in the Notice of Reasons for Refusal have already been made of record in the present application, in Applicant's IDS's of December 27, 2005 and May 16, 2006.

An International Search Report was completed on March 17, 2003 in connection with the PCT application corresponding to the copending US '224 application. A copy of the International Search Report is submitted herewith, and three of the references cited therein are also cited on the attached PTO-1449 form. The JP '274 reference in the International Search Report has already been cited in Applicant's IDS of December 27, 2005. The attached PTO-1449 form also cites US '393 which corresponds to WO '623.

A Notice of Reasons for Refusal was issued November 15, 2005 in connection with one of the Japanese priority applications on which the copending US '224 application is based. A copy of the Notice of Reasons for Refusal together with an English translation thereof and the JP '275 reference cited therein, are submitted herewith. The JP '274 reference in the Notice of Reasons for Refusal has already been cited in Applicant's IDS of December 27, 2005.

A Supplementary European Search Report was completed on February 24, 2006 in connection with the European application corresponding to the copending US '224 application. A copy of the Search Report is submitted herewith. The references cited therein are cited on the attached PTO-1449 form, except for the JP '274 reference which has already been cited in Applicant's IDS of December 27, 2005.

In Applicant's IDS of July 28, 2006, Applicant cited JP 58-43740, but an English abstract of that reference was not filed with the IDS. The PTO-1449 form attached to the instant IDS cites US '901 corresponding to JP '740.

Respectfully submitted,

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